SWGFAST
Glossary - Anatomy

BALL AREA
The large cushion area below the base of the big toe.

BRACHYDACTYLY
Abnormal shortness of fingers or toes.

BULB OF FINGERS (THUMBS, TOES)
The portion of the friction skin on the tips of fingers, thumbs, or toes in the distal phalanx, from one side of the nail to the opposite side of the nail.

CALCAR AREA
Area located at the heel of the foot.

CARPAL DELTA AREA
Area of the palm containing a delta formation nearest the wrist.

CREASE
A line or linear depression; grooves at the joints of the phalanges, at the junction of the digits and across the palmar and plantar surfaces that accommodate flexion.

DERMABRASION
A technique using chemicals, wire brush, surgery or lasers which can cause either temporary or permanent loss of ridge detail.

DERMAL PAPILLAE
Peg-like formations on the surface of the dermis.

DERMIS
The layer of skin beneath the epidermis.

DIGIT
A toe or finger.

DISSOCIATED RIDGES
Disrupted, rather than continuous, ridges; an area of ridge units that did not form into friction ridges.

DISTAL
Farthest away from the center or point of attachment. The direction away from the body.
DUCT
A tube or canal that delivers secretions or excretions.

DYSPLASIA
Ridge units that did not form complete friction ridges due to a genetic cause.

ECCrine GLANDS
Sweat glands that open on all surfaces of the skin.

ECTRODACTYLY
Congenital absence of all or part of a digit(s).

EPIDERMIS
The outer layer of the skin.

FETUS
For the human species, the unborn individual from about the end of the second month of development until birth. Earlier stages are termed embryo.

FIBULA
The smaller of the two bones in the lower leg on the little toe side.

FIBULAR AREA
The plantar area situated on the little toe side of the foot.

FINGER
See Phalange.

FRiction RIDGE
A raised portion of the epidermis on the palmar or plantar skin.

FULCRUM AREA
The area between the thumb and index finger on the palm.

HALLUCAL
A region which corresponds to the distal thenar and first interdigital region of the palm.

HYPERDACTYLY
See Polydactyly.

HYPOTHENAR AREA
The friction ridge skin on the palm, below the interdigital area on the ulnar side of the palm.
INTERDIGITAL
Palmar area below the fingers and above the thenar and hypothenar areas.

MACRODACTYLY
Congenitally abnormal largeness of fingers or toes.

MEDIAL
At or near the center.

MOTTLED SKIN
Ridge detail is present, but is dissociated due to trauma or genetic causes. It lacks any continuous pattern flow.

ORTHODACTYLY
Fingers and toes cannot be flexed.

PALM (PALMAR AREA)
The friction ridge skin area on the side and underside of the hand.

PALMAR ZONE
The interdigital area of the palm.

PAPILLÆ
Peg-like structures of the dermis.

PAPILLARY RIDGES
Orderly rows of eccrine glands positioned along the path of the friction ridge.

PATHOLOGY
The study of causes, nature, and effects of diseases, trauma, and other abnormalities.

PATTERN FORMATIONS
Friction ridge skin arrangements formed as early as the third month of gestation.

PENTADACTYLY
The occurrence of five fingers or toes on a hand or foot.

PHALANGE (PHALANX)
A finger or toe, with proximal, medial and distal segments. Any bones in the fingers or toes.

PLANTAR AREA
The friction ridge skin area on the side and underside of the foot.
POLYDACTYLY
A hand or foot having more than the normal number of fingers or toes.

PORES
Small openings on friction ridges through which body fluids are released.

PROXIMAL
Situated at the closest point of attachment; direction toward the body.

RADIAL
The smaller of the two bones of the forearm, on the same side as the thumb.

RIDGE (FRICTION)
See Friction Ridge.

RIDGE APLASIA
Congenital absence of friction ridge skin.

RIDGE DISSOCIATION
See Dissociated Ridges

RIDGE DYSPLASIA
See Dysplasia

RIDGE HYPOPLASIA
Underdeveloped ridges associated with an excess of creases.

RUDIMENTARY RIDGE
See Secondary Ridge

SCAR
A mark remaining after the healing of a wound.

SCARF SKIN
Dry or dead skin which has scaled and peeled away from the surface skin.

SEBACEOUS GLAND
An oil-secreting gland generally associated with a hair follicle.

SKIN
The outer covering of the body consisting of the dermis and epidermis.
**SPLIT THUMB**
Thumb that has conjoined distal phalanges.

**SYNDACTYLY**
Refers to webbed fingers. Side-to-side fusion of digits.

**SYMPHALANGY**
End to end fusion of the phalanges of the fingers or toes.

**THENAR AREA**
The large cushion of the palm located at the base of the thumb.

**TIBIA**
A bone in the lower leg.

**TIBIAL AREA**
The plantar area situated on the big toe side of the foot.

**TRAUMA**
Injury or damage.

**ULNA**
The larger of the two bones of the forearm, on the palmar side of the little finger.

**VOLAR**
Related to the palmar and plantar surfaces.

**VOLAR PADS**
Palmar and plantar fetal tissue growth that affects friction ridge skin development and patterns.

**VOLAR SKIN**
See *Friction Skin.*

**WEBBED FINGERS**
Two or more fingers connected along the sides by skin.